Nov. 22-24, 2001

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on November 22 in St. John's and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Executive) met on November 23 and 24. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions occurring at these meetings.

For further information on any of these issues or information contained here please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Collective Bargaining
Executive and Joint Council were provided with a detailed update on the status of negotiations and progress to date. Since the last Executive Meeting in October, negotiations sessions were held October 22-23, November 7-8, and November 13-14. Updates by way of Bargaining Briefs were provided to teachers on November 20 (Vol. 7, No. 9) and November 23 (Vol. 7, No. 10) and teachers are encouraged to review this information. Executive approved the recommendation from the Negotiating Team that the NLTA request the appointment of a Conciliation Board. A detailed update by way of a President's Digest will be forwarded to all members during the week of December 2. This will be followed up with branch meetings by Provincial Executive members and NLTA Administrative Staff early in the new year.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, Fred Douglas, Vice-President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Association Priorities for 2001-2002
Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities document which outlines action plans, who is responsible, target dates for implementation and action updates for the priorities of the Association. The four main priorities are: concluding a collective agreement; quality of teachers' work life; membership involvement; and communications.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Teacher Certification
The committee met on June 22 to continue ongoing discussions re

certification renewal. The supply of teachers is one of the major issues being discussed by the committee. For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Labrador Benefits Agreement
Schedule J of the Provincial Collective Agreement contains the Labrador Benefits Agreement. This agreement is negotiated jointly by seven unions which represent public employees in Labrador. These unions are: Canadian Union of Public Employees; Association of Allied Health Professionals; Local Union 1615 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees; the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses Union; the Police Brotherhood of The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary; and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. The agreement will expire on March 31, 2002.

Two preliminary meetings of representatives from the respective unions have been held to discuss the approach for the upcoming round of negotiations. All union representatives have been asked to seek input from the portion of its membership covered by this agreement. The next meeting to review these issues is scheduled for January 8, 2002.

For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Virtual Teacher Centre
On Friday, November 23, the NLTA launched the Virtual Teacher Centre. On hand for the launch were: Senator George Furey, representing Federal Minister Jane Stewart; Honourable Judy Foote, Minister of Education; Winston Carter, President of the NLTA; as well as over 20 invited guests from the educational partners and stakeholders, and the Joint Council and Provincial Executive. Teachers can access the VTC at www.virtualteachercentre.ca.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Alex Hickey, Co-ordinator of the Virtual Teacher Centre.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
The Joint Council was addressed by Mr. Doug Willard, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Mr. Willard brought greetings on behalf of all the teachers he represents in the provinces and territories across Canada. In his address Mr. Willard discussed topics such as the supply and demand of teachers, teacher shortages, underfunding, collective bargaining, and meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Ad Hoc Committee on Elections and Procedures

A presentation was made to Joint Council and the Provincial Executive Council by the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Elections and Procedures. The presentation included all considerations to date including assistance/support to candidates; limitations on campaign spending; limitations on branch/candidate activities; and specific procedures for election of President and Vice-President by province-wide voting. The committee will be submitting its report to Executive in February/March 2002.

For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Elections and Procedures, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

- The new by-laws for the Bremco Branch were approved. For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

- The NLTA will indicate its agreement to participate in a three-party Liaison Committee with the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils, and the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association for the purpose of identifying and discussing issues of common concern. The naming of the NLTA representatives on this committee will be the prerogative of the NLTA President. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- The NLTA will endorse the eight-point principles of "Standing Together for Medicare" and such endorsement will be communicated to the Canadian Health Coalition. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- The deadline for submission of proposals for the Student Equity Program will be April 30 and proposals will be considered up to that time for projects to be carried out before August 31 of that school year. For further information contact Dana Burridge, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

- Primary teachers will be polled to obtain feedback on the 2000-01 criterion referenced testing with a focus on such issues as test construction, implementation factors, and the interpretation of results. The survey would also provide an opportunity for comments on suggested improvements in the tests and testing procedures, as well as in the supports required to reach optimum student achievement. For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René

Wicks, Professional Development Division.

- The NLTA will poll high school teachers regarding public examinations with a focus on such issues as examination content and sequencing of items, results discrepancies between school-based and public examination marks, and experiences with test administration and the marking board. For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

- The amount of $150,000 will be transferred from the Centennial Fund to the Professional Development Fund immediately. This amount would cover the amount needed to top the PD Fund up to the original principal amount of $700,000, plus it would allow for the commitments from 2000-01 and would further provide for $35,000 for 2001-02. For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

- For the year 2002-03 and beyond, only the actual dividends earned and received will be expended from the PD Fund. For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

- The NLTA policy on the hiring of substitute teachers will be communicated to all school administrators with a requst that these guidelines be followed in the hiring of substitutes. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or any member of the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Joint Council

The Joint Council approved change in policy statements since the 2001 Biennial General Meeting. They also endorsed the decision of the Negotiating Team to proceed with the requesting of a Conciliation Board; and that information on the current state of negotiations and rationale for proceeding to a Conciliation Board be relayed to the membership.

The following motions were approved at the Joint Council meeting as recommendations to Executive:

- That the NLTA investigate ways for substitute teachers to avail of provincial/board/school-based inservice initiatives. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.
- That the NLTA revisit the policy regarding Pre-Retirement Seminars and the remuneration paid to attendees for such events. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- That attempts be made to provide substitute and untenured teachers greater support when faced with issues that come up from time to time. For further information contact Winston Carter, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.
- That Provincial Executive Council investigate the current status of school funding in the province, specifically how much per pupil funding the schools have to work with and how much funding is made up through the fundraising efforts of students and teachers. For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park, René Wicks, Professional Development Division.
- That the NLTA initiate immediately a media campaign to alert the public to the causes and implications of uncertified emergency supply personnel being utilized in the classroom. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Discussion Topics

The following were discussed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council for follow-up or future discussion: actuarial valuation of the Teachers Pension Plan; retired teachers as substitutes; teacher certification; Workload Committee; and non-education graduates teaching in our schools.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **January 11 and 12** in St. John's. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.